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Spitzke

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[54] **ACCESSORIES FOR SKATEBOARDS**

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[51] **Int. Cl.**[2] **A63C 17/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **280/87.04 A**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 280/87.04 A, 87.04 R, 280/601, 11.3, 11.1 R, 11.1 BT, 607; 9/310 AA, 310 E; 272/57 E; 36/11.5

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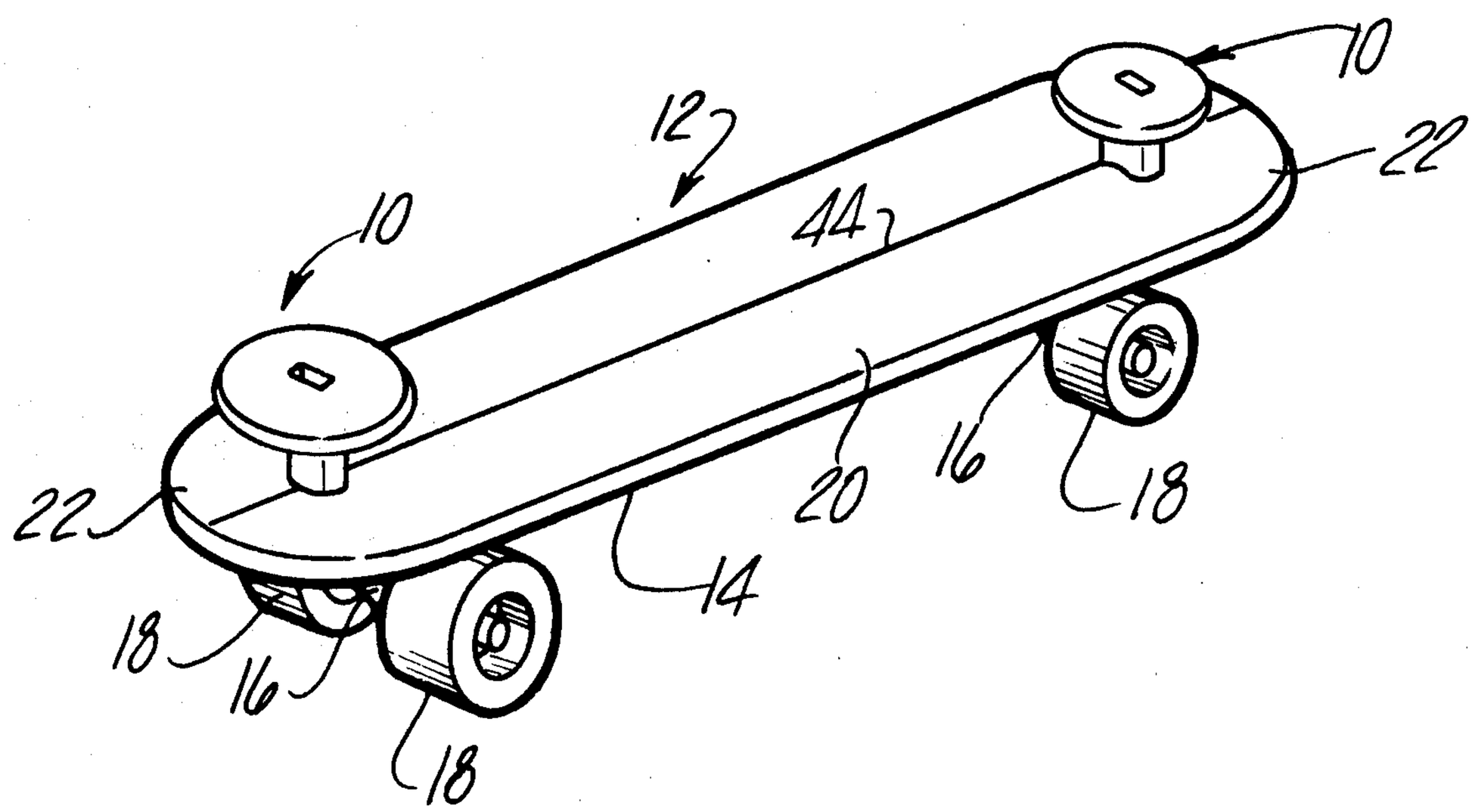
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A grip accessory for skateboards, a pair of which are mounted on the top surface of the board to form foot or hand holds, each grip accessory being shaped generally like a mushroom with a stem and a head with the head spaced from the top surface of the skateboard to form an annular groove around the stem to receive the feet of a user of the board. The head also forms a hand rest for doing handstands.

8 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures



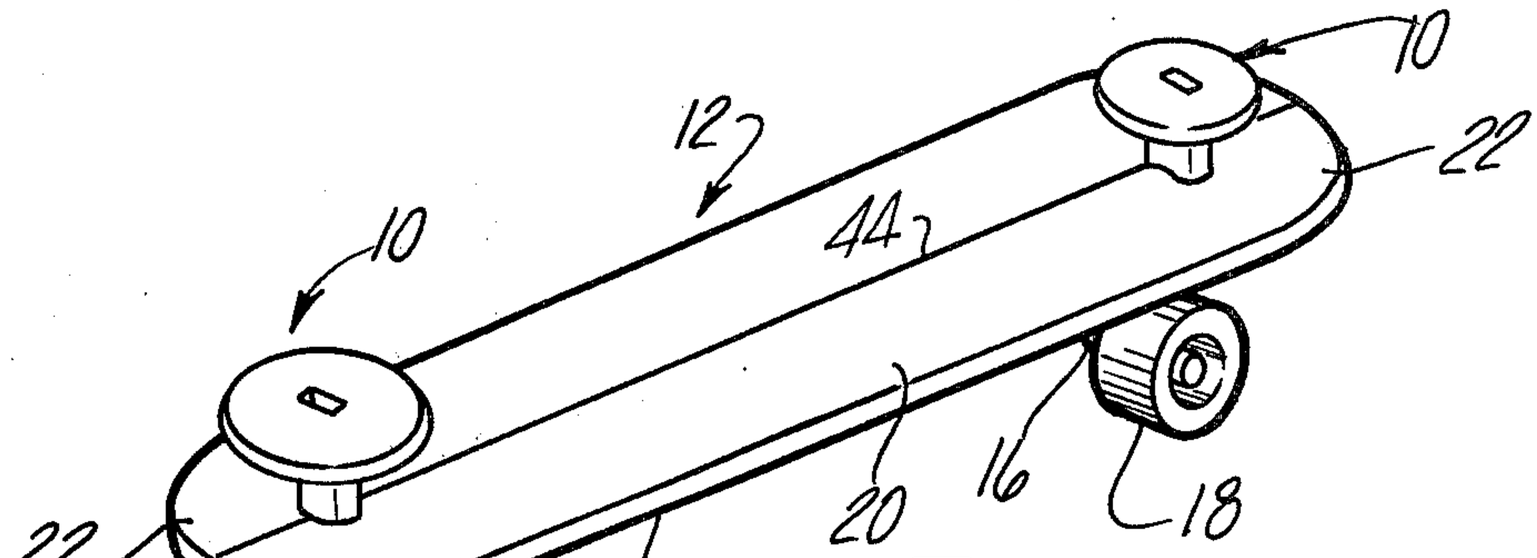


Fig-1

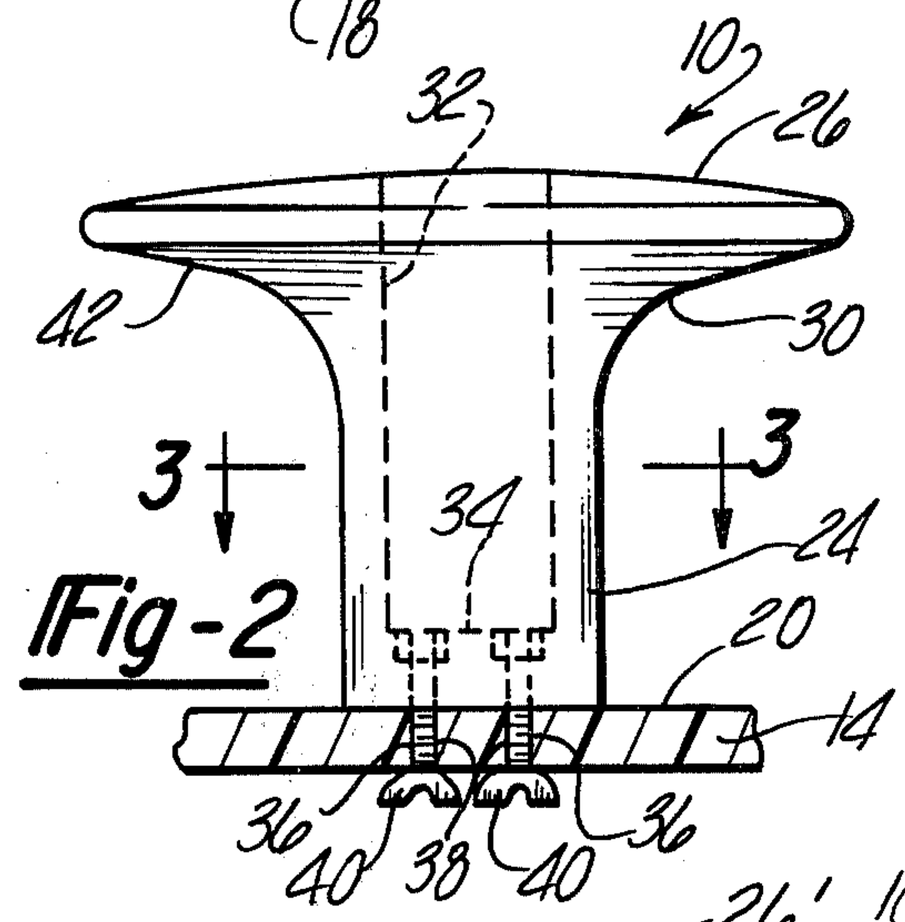


Fig-2

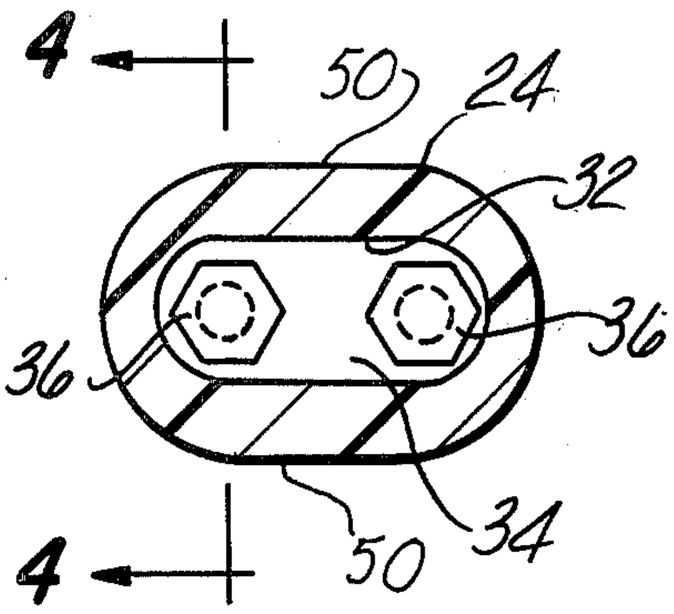


Fig-3

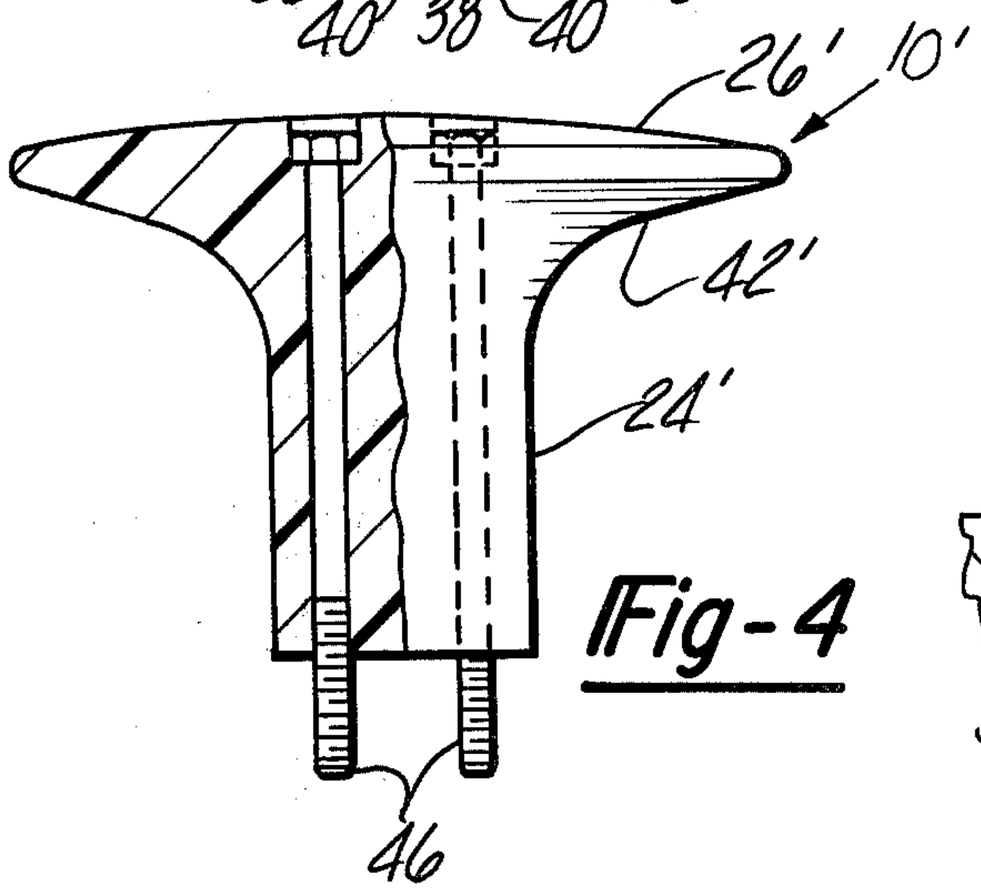
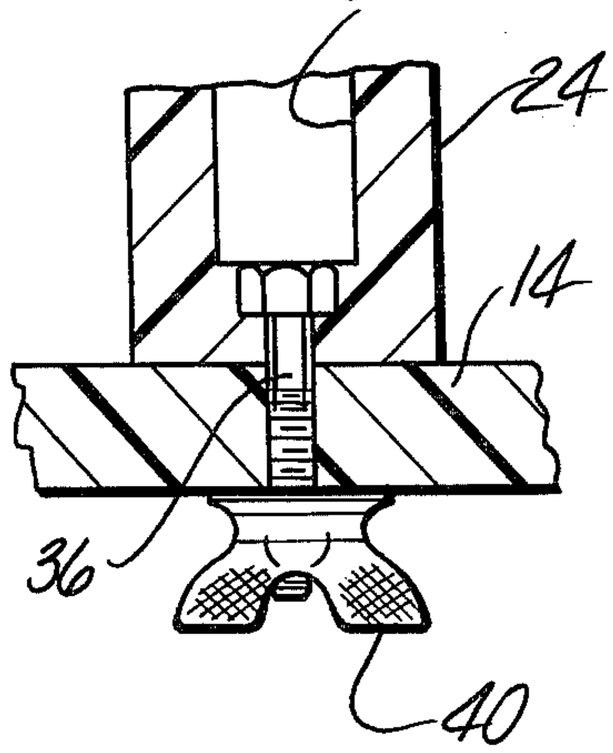


Fig-4

Fig-5



ACCESSORIES FOR SKATEBOARDS

This invention relates to land vehicles such as skateboards and more particularly to a grip accessory by which the skateboard may be held with either the feet or the hands of a user.

It is an object of the invention to provide a grip accessory for skateboards by which the feet may be firmly engaged with the board so that during jumping acrobatics the board can be maintained positively attached to the feet but at the same time is instantly releaseable.

Another object of the invention is to provide a girp accessory for skateboards which form grip portions elevated above the surface of the board to protect the hands.

The objects of this invention are accomplished by providing a grip accessory for skateboards a pair of which are detachably mounted in longitudinally spaced relationship on the upper surface of a skateboard, each accessory comprising a pedestal member acting to support a head member in an elevated position above the surface of the board. The head member and board surface form an annular groove around the pedestal member such that the shoes of an operator can be positioned under the head and against the pedestal member. Opposite feet of the operator are moved apart so that the outboard edges of the feet are engaged with the pair of grip accessories so that when the wheels of the skateboard leave the ground the skateboard stays with the operator unless the operator chooses to move his feet together in which case the feet of the operator become separated from the board. The pedestal member and head member are made as a unit from a suitable thermoplastic material and are fastened to the board by means of a pair of bolts which prevent turning of the grip accessory. The grip accessories also form hand holds by which the user of the skateboard may do handstands on the board. In one embodiment of the invention the pedestal member is made solid so that it can be cut and trimmed to determine the spacing of the head member from the top surface of the skateboard to accommodate different sizes of shoes.

These and other objects of the invention will be apparent from the following description and from the drawings in which:

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a skateboard with grip accessories embodying the invention;

FIG. **2** is a side elevation of one of the grip accessories seen in FIG. **1** but at an enlarged scale;

FIG. **3** is a cross-sectional view at an enlarged scale taken on line **3—3** in FIG. **2**;

FIG. **4** is a broken away cross-sectional view of a modification of the invention, and

FIG. **5** is a cross sectional view taken on line **4—4** in FIG. **3**.

Referring to the drawings, grip accessories embodying the present invention are designated generally at **10** and a pair of such accessories **10** are shown in association with a skateboard **12**. The skateboard **12** includes a body member or board **14** the underside of which supports a pair of trucks **16** each of which has a pair of ground engaging wheels **18**. The upper surface **20** of the board **14** is adapted to receive the feet of a user who rides the skateboard. Typically the upper surface **20** of the skateboard **14** is provided with a roughened or abrasive surface to insure firm placement and grip of the feet of the operator on the upper surface of the skateboard.

As best seen in FIG. **1** the board **14** is provided with a pair of grip accessories **10** one of which is supported adjacent each end **22** of the skateboard **12**. As best seen in FIG. **2**, each grip accessory **10** is generally mushroom shaped and includes a stem or pedestal **24** having a disc shaped head portion **26**. The lower end **28** of the pedestal **24** is adapted to be connected to the top surface **20** of the board **14**. The upper end of the pedestal **24** and head **26** merge at a fillet portion **30**. Preferably the pedestal **24** and the head **26** are molded integrally of a suitable thermoplastic material to form a relatively rigid and yet soft plastic unit.

The pedestal **24** is generally elliptical or oval in cross-section as seen in FIG. **3** and is provided with a blind bore **32** having a similarly shaped cross-section. The bottom end or wall **34** of the bore **32** is adapted to receive a pair of bolts **36** in side by side relationship. The bolts **36** are intended to extend generally axially of the pedestal **24** and to pass through openings **38** in the board or body member **14**. Wing nuts **40** are threadably engaged with the ends of the bolts **36** to grip the underside of the board **14** and to hold the grip accessory **10** in firm position on the upper surface of the board **14**. The end wall **34** in the bore **32** is provided with hexagon shaped recesses which receive the heads of the bolts **36** and prevent their rotation when the wing nuts **40** are tightened on the bolts **36**.

The upper surface of the head **26** is generally convex to form a comfortable pad surface **42** when the grip accessory **10** is held by the hand of an operator.

Installation of the grip accessory **10** is accomplished by marking the center line of the board **14** so that the line passes longitudinally of the board **14** and between the pairs of wheels **18**. Openings **38** are then formed in the board to be disposed symmetrically at opposite sides of the center line indicated at **44**. Thereafter the grip accessory **10** may be placed in position with the bolts **36** passing through the openings **38**. The wing nuts **40** are placed in position and tightened to firmly maintain the grip accessory **10** in position. This forms a detachable connection so that the grip accessory **10** may be attached or detached as desired by the operator. To facilitate attachment and orientation of the pairs of bolts **36** or **46**, the pedestal **24** has opposed flat surfaces **50** that act as guides which are located to extend transversely of the board **14**.

A modified form of the invention is shown in FIG. **4** wherein a grip accessory **10'** has a stem or pedestal **24'** formed without a bore **32**. In this form, bolts **46** extend from the head **26'** the full length of the solid pedestal **24'** and through the board **14**. This makes it possible to cut off selected amounts from the bottom end of the pedestal **24'** to establish the distance from the undersurface **42'** of the head **26'** to the top surface of the board **14** to fit the shoes of the user of the board. This distance is determined by the operator's preference relative to how tightly the grip accessory **10** is to fit relative to his shoes.

In operation the user of the skateboard can place his feet between the grip accessory **10** so that the outboard sides of the shoes are disposed in the annular grooves formed between the head **26** and the upper surface **20** of the board **14**. Exertion of a slight amount of pressure outwardly to spread the feet maintains the board **14** firmly connected to the feet of the operator so that during aerial acrobatics such as jumping or curb hopping, the board remains attached to the feet. However, if the maneuver is to be aborted, the operator moves his

feet towards each other and he becomes completely and instantly disengaged from the skateboard.

Because of the annular groove formed completely around the stem pedestal **24**, the operator may position his feet in side by side relationship with respect to only one of the grip accessories. In that instance the inboard edges of the shoes of the operator are disposed at opposite sides of a single grip accessory. It will be appreciated also that the opposite forward portions of the grooves may be used for various operations such as flipping a board or the like.

In addition to foot engagement with the grip accessories **10** the upper surface **42** forms a pad so that the operator may grip the pair of grip accessories **10** in opposite hands and do handstands or other acrobatics.

A grip accessory for skateboards has been provided which is adapted to receive either the feet or hands of an operator in which each of the grip accessories is generally mushroom shaped in configuration and has a pedestal, the lower end of which is connected to the top surface of the skateboard and the other end of the pedestal is provided with a head portion such that a hand or foot receiving recesses is provided between the head and the board which extends continuously around the pedestal. The grip accessory may be used for firm and positive engagement with either the feet or hands of an operator of a skateboard.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. An accessory for skateboards having a board with an upper riding surface, said accessory comprising; a pedestal member having one end adapted for connection to said upper riding surface, a head member supported by said pedestal in elevated position above said board and projecting from opposed sides of said pedestal, said pedestal and head forming opposed shoe supporting portions engageable with a side of a shoe to support said skateboard on said shoe, and said head member forming a hand gripping portion.

2. The combination of claim **1** wherein said head member is generally disc-shaped extending radially from said pedestal to form a continuous groove around said pedestal to form said shoe supporting portions.

3. The combination of claim **1** and further comprising bolt means associated with said pedestal for detachably connecting said pedestal to said board.

4. The combination of claim **3** wherein an axially extended recess is formed in said pedestal member to extend to a point spaced from said one end to form a wall, said bolt means being seated in said wall.

5. The combination of claim **3** wherein said bolt means include a pair of bolts in side by side relationship to prevent turning of said pedestal member relative to said board.

6. The combination of claim **1** wherein said pedestal member has a pair of opposed flat surfaces facilitating orientation of said grip accessory relative to said board.

7. The combination of claim **1** wherein said accessory is mounted adjacent one end of said board.

8. A skateboard comprising an elongated board member supported on ground engaging wheels and having a generally flat riding surface, a pair of grip accessories mounted adjacent opposite ends of said board, each of said grip accessories including a pedestal member having one end adapted for connection to said upper riding surface of said board, a head member supported by said pedestal in elevated position above said board and projecting from opposed sides of said pedestal to form shoed foot receiving portions operative to hold said skateboard attached to shoes upon pressing feet in opposite directions relative to said pair of accessories and upon pressing feet toward each other at opposite sides and relative to a selected one of said accessories, said head members of said pair of grip accessories being disposed in substantially the same elevation above said riding surface.

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